

significant increase in buffer subsidy which is a constituent of Food Subsidy. The exact amount will be known after the close of the financial year 2000-2001.

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains in Godowns

† 133. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had to bear additional expenditure for the past few years on account of surplus buffer stock of foodgrains in Government godowns in the country;

(b) if so, the additional amount of expenditure which Government had to bear during the financial years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether consumer prices of wheat and rice had to be enhanced during the above years; and

(d) if so, what were the prices in April, 1997-98 and March, 1999-2000 separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated additional expenditure incurred on net surplus of wheat and rice over the requirement of TPDS during the financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was as under:—

(Rs. crores)	
Year	Additional Expenditure
1997-98	904
1998-99	1392
1999-2000	2797

(c) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) The Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice during April, 1997-98 and March, 1999-2000 were as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Month	Price			
	Wheat	Rice		
		Comm.	Fine	S. fine
April, 1997	402	537	617	648
AprU, 1998		Comm.	APL/BPL	Gr. 'A'
March, 1999		APL/BPL	550V350	APL/BPL
March, 2000		450/250	700V350	700/350
		650/250	700V350	905/350
		682/250		905/350

*Applicable only to J&K, H.P., N.E. States, Sikkim and hilly areas of U.P.

Production of Sugar

134. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar produced during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether Government would consider to withdraw the levy imposed on sugar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A statement indicating sugar production, State-wise, during each of the last two years is enclosed (*See* below.)

(b) and (c) Government has decided to decontrol the sugar industry in a phased manner. The levy obligation was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 1.1.2000. Government has further reduced the levy obligation from 30% to 15% with effect from 1.2.2001.